

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions?  
2 Delegate Bennett?

3 DELEGATE BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, I would like  
4 to support the proposal that this section be eliminated  
5 from the Constitution. I don't agree with my good friend,  
6 Helen Koss, that the General Assembly couldn't impose any  
7 restrictions or disqualifications whatsoever, notwith-  
8 standing the fact it were omitted from the Constitution.

9 But let me say I am serving on a committee on  
10 the rights of the mentally ill of the American Bar  
11 Association and we have been much distrubed by efforts to  
12 disenfranchise people for one reason because it handicaps  
13 their recovery. If they feel they are under some kind  
14 of shame or some kind of disqualification, it makes  
15 much more difficult their treatment.

16 Moreover, as Delegate Bothe points out, well  
17 over 95 per cent of the people that are in mental hospitals  
18 now are there on voluntary commitments, and to subject  
19 them to possible disqualification is inhuman.

20 This Convention, I think, can well display  
21 the breadth of vision and interest in the well being of